

Star-Telegram

Employee at CPS arrested in child sex sting

BY KALEY JOHNSON
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FORT WORTH

An employee of Child Protective Services in Fort Worth was arrested Tuesday during a county operation charging men with seeking out children for sex. Adrian Martinez, 44, of Saginaw was arrested Tuesday and charged with online solicitation of a child.

A spokesperson confirmed Thursday afternoon that Martinez was a current employee at CPS.

"As soon as we became aware of the arrest of Adrian Martinez he was removed from caseworker duties and placed on administrative leave," CPS spokeswoman Marissa Gonzales said. "We are cooperating fully with law enforcement."

Gonzales said Martinez has

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US conducts first airstrike with Lockheed Martin's F-35

BY GORDON DICKSON
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The F-35 has reached yet another milestone — conducting its first airstrike, according to Marine Corps sources.

The Marine version of the Lockheed Martin stealth fighter jet, which is built at the company's Fort Worth campus, was involved in a strike against a fixed Taliban target in Afghanistan, according to a statement by the military branch.

The Marine Corps also posted an item on its Twitter account.

"RAW FOOTAGE: @thef35 bravo conducted its first combat strikes in Afghanistan today in @CENTCOM's area of responsibility in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel," the tweet reads. "The strike fighter is attached to the @Official13thMEU with the @USNavy's Essex Amphibious Ready Group."

The F-35B's role in the Afghanistan strike was first reported by CNN.

The F-35 B is known for its ability to take off on a short runway, and land like a helicopter, making it ideal for maneuvering in tight spaces, according to Lockheed Martin material on the aircraft.

In May, Israeli forces reported that the F-35 made its debut in combat near Beirut, although at the time it wasn't clear whether the plane fired any shots or provided a more ancillary role.

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Ford tells of sexual assault; Kavanaugh angrily denies it



MICHAEL REYNOLDS AP

Christine Blasey Ford described her harrowing memories of an attack by Brett Kavanaugh in 1982. "It was hard for me to breathe, and I believed that Brett was going to accidentally kill me," she said.



ANDREW HARNIK AP

A visibly angered Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh said allegations of sexual misconduct have left his family and his name "totally and permanently destroyed."

Fate of Supreme Court nominee likely rests with trio of GOP senators

BY SHERYL GAY STOLBERG AND NICHOLAS FANDOS
New York Times

WASHINGTON

Judge Brett Kavanaugh and his accuser faced off Thursday in an extraordinary, emotional day of testimony that ricocheted from a woman's tremulous account of sexual assault to a man's angry, outraged denial, all of which played out for hours before a riveted nation and a riven Senate.

The two very different versions of the truth, unfolding in the heated atmosphere of gender divides, #MeToo and the Trump presidency, could not be reconciled. The testimony skittered from cringeworthy sexual

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- Republicans worry about political cost of Kavanaugh fight. **8A**
- Emotional, certain testimony leaves no room to compromise. **8A**

details to accusations and denials of drunken debauchery to one juvenile exchange over flatulence.

Washington has not seen anything like it in a generation. For people not used to watching government in action, it was a spectacle of tantrums, tears, preening and political ambition — what Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, called, "Sadly one of the most shameful chapters in the history of the United States Senate."

Senators must ultimately take sides — and their decisions in the coming days will determine the ideological balance of the Supreme Court for decades.

Immediately after the hearing adjourned, President Donald Trump praised Kavanaugh's testimony on Twitter, saying that the judge had "showed America exactly why I nominated him."

"His testimony was powerful, honest, and riveting," the president tweeted. "Democrats' search and destroy strategy is disgraceful and this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct, and resist. The Senate must vote!"

But Kavanaugh's fate most likely rests with only a handful

of undecided senators — Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Jeff Flake of Arizona, all Republicans, chief among them — who had kept their views on the hearing close late into the day.

At least Flake, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, will have to render a decision in short order: Republican senators emerged from a meeting Thursday evening — where they heard outside lawyer Rachel Mitchell's analysis of the hearing — pledging to push ahead with a Judiciary Committee vote scheduled for Friday morning.

On Thursday morning, with

SEE HEARING, 8A

Veteran news executive with Texas ties promoted to lead Star-Telegram

BY TOM JOHANNINGMEIER
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A veteran publishing executive whose family's roots are in Texas has been promoted to publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Ryan Mote, the vice president of strategic advertising for The Sacramento Bee and McClatchy's Western region, will start in Fort Worth on Nov. 5, McClatchy, the Star-Telegram's parent company, announced Thursday.

Mote replaces Sean Burke, who is stepping down to pursue new opportunities.

"We're grateful to Sean for his efforts and thoughtful contributions to our digital trans-

formation and wish him well on his path," said Tony Berg, the regional publisher for McClatchy's Central region.

Mote, 39, grew up in Southern California but has visited Texas every year since he was 8, spending summers at his grandparents' farm in Graham.

His grandmother's relatives were farmers and ranchers and grew cotton on their land. His grandfather's family leased property a couple of miles from his grandmother's homestead and were farmers in their early years, known for their watermelons. Later in life

they purchased the land and started a pecan orchard.

Mote also has family in Coppell and the region around Graham, and his wife, Katherine, has relatives throughout Texas, with the closest residing in Colleyville. The couple has a 5-year-old daughter. Coming to Texas has been a lifelong dream.

"I'm excited to put roots down in Texas and look forward to helping the Star-Telegram team be successful," he said. "It means more when you have deep ties to the area like I do."

Mote has spent the past four years at McClatchy. He started as the vice president of ad-

SEE PUBLISHER, 10A

LOCAL

LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS FLOODED

Volunteers vow to help University Little League recover from floods that damaged its fields in south Fort Worth. **4A**

LOCAL

FORT WORTH OFFICER FIRED

A 12-year veteran of the Fort Worth police has been fired by the department after testing positive for cocaine. **5A**

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